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uniformly deformable when a load is applied thereto;

a thermal regulating unit cooperating with the liquid material to either heat or cool the liquid material.

(Amended) The thermal regulating cushioning device of claim X and further comprising a resealable inlet and outlet valve for ingress and egress of said liquid[-like] material.

(Amended) An encapsulating, thermal regulating cushioning device comprising:

a flexible, deformable outer membrane adapted to sealably receive a liquid[-like] material therein;

a foam core being <u>encased</u> [disposed] within <u>and in intimate contact with, but</u> <u>not bonded to</u> said flexible, deformable outer membrane wherein said foam core has a dimension substantially coincident with said outer membrane;

a liquid[-like] material being sealably contained within said flexible, deformable outer membrane and saturating said foam core, said liquid[-like] material being at least partially circulatable through said foam core wherein the cooperation of said saturated foam core and said sealable flexible membrane provide a substantially uniform, thermal regulating medium and structural support such that said cushioning device is readily, uniformly deformable when a load is applied thereto;

a receiving area adapted to receive the body of a user, said receiving area having a dimension larger than that of said body such that said foam core and outer membrane substantially surround said body.

No

√ (Amended) The encapsulating device of claim 9 further comprising a thermal regulating unit cooperating with the liquid[-like] material to heat or cool the temperature of the liquid[-like] material.

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(Amended) A thermal regulating cushioning device comprising:

a plurality of segments of consistent size, each of said segments connectable to



at least one other segment, whereby the length of said device is selectively variable, each of said segments comprising:

a flexible, deformable outer membrane being adapted to sealably receive a liquid[-like] material therein;

a foam core being <u>encased</u> [disposed] within <u>and in intimate contact with, but not bonded to,</u> said flexible, deformable outer membrane wherein said foam core has a dimension substantially coincident with said outer membrane;

a liquid[-like] material being sealably contained within said flexible, deformable outer membrane and saturating said foam core, said liquid[-like] material being at least partially circulatable through said foam core wherein the cooperation of said saturated foam core and said sealable flexible membrane provide a substantially uniform, thermal regulating medium and structural support such that said cushioning device is readily, uniformly deformable when a load is applied thereto;

<u>a thermal regulating unit cooperating with the liquid material to either heat or cool</u> the liquid material.

(Amended) A method for regulating the temperature of a user comprising the steps of:

bringing a portion of the body of said user in intimate contact with a cushioning device having a foam core saturated with a liquid[-like] material, said foam core [covered] encased within and in intimate contact with [by], but not bonded to a deformable, sealable flexible membrane and having a dimension substantially coincident with said outer membrane, wherein said liquid[-like] material is at least partially circulatable through said foam core and having a thermal regulating unit cooperating with the liquid material to either heat of cool the liquid material, wherein the cooperation of said saturated foam core and said sealable flexible membrane provide a substantially uniform, thermal regulating medium and structural support for said user, and wherein said cushioning device is readily, uniformly deformable when a load is applied thereto.

Applicant thus respectfully submits this request for amendments to the above



